

To the Sanitary Authority of the Borough
of Lyme Regis

Gentlemen,

I beg to hand you my annual report on the Health & Sanitary Condition of this Borough during the year 1897.

Population. This varies very slightly; in 1891, the last census, our population was 2364 & estimated to the middle of 1897, is 2378.

Deaths. The total number of deaths from all causes registered during the year was 41. 16 Males, & 25 Females, one death of a non resident is to be deducted, leaving 40 as total number of deaths. This will give a Death rate of 16.8 per 1000.—

The death rate for the year 1896, was 15.6 per 1000.

The various Causes of death are shown in the following Table.

Scarlatina. 2. Phthisis, 2. Heart Disease 4. Diphtheria 6. Bronchitis 1.

Accident 1. All other diseases - 24 -

Total. 41.

There were two inquests held by the Coroner during the year.

The Infant Mortality. i.e. the number of children dying under one year old out of every 1000 born alive, was 65.2 as compared with 71.4. for 1896. Two of the Three children dying under one year were born prematurely.

Births. The number of births registered during the year was 46. 23 Males & 23 Females, giving a birth-rate of 19.3 per 1000 - The birth rate for 1896 was 17.7 - per 1000.

Rainfall, & Sunshine. - Through the kindness & courtesy of C. E. Peck Esq. of Rousdon, I am enabled to give the Rainfall for 1897 - viz: 37.5 inches, & the total amount of sunshine, 1720 hours, as registered at the Rousdon Observatory, which is situated about 3 miles to the West of this Town, and about 500 feet above the Sea level.

Zymotic Diseases. The total number of deaths from this cause was 8. 2 being from Scarlatina, & 6 from Diphtheria, giving a Zymotic death rate of 3.3 per 1000 per annum.

Scarlatina. There were 19 Cases of this disease notified to me during the year, with 2 deaths. The majority of these, viz. 13 occurred at St. Michael's College. These cases all occurred between Feb^y & July.

Diphtheria. 19 Cases of this disease were notified to me throughout the year, with 6 deaths. I have already, in a special report, dated 26th Aug. 1897. described to you the history and course of this outbreak, which lasted from March until July. - 4 Cases occurred in March all in one house, & of these one died.

In June there were 12 Cases, in various parts of the Town, & of these 5 died. 3 Cases occurred in July. The cause of outbreak

spread, could not be clearly proved). —
Erysipelas. During the year 4 cases of this disease were notified to me, but no death resulted therefrom.

I did not receive a notification during the year of any cases of the following, Small pox, Cholera, Croup, Typhus, Typhoid or puerperal Fevers.

I have with Sanitary Inspector twice visited the 3 Slaughter houses in the Town, 2 of which were in a very satisfactory condition, but the 3rd required to be whitewashed, which was, on appealing to the occupier, accordingly done. The Bakchouses & Dairies were all in a satisfactory condition.

On May 15th I reported to you that 11 Cottages at the lower end of Sherborne Lane required more closet accommodation. The owner has since made a very great improvement in that locality, by acquiring a piece of waste ground near these houses, and building Closets & Wash Houses thereon — and allotted the remaining ground as small gardens to the Cottages.

An untrapped drain in this locality, which was used for carrying slopwater from 3 Cottages & was a constant source of annoyance, has been closed up. — On the 18th June, I, with the Sanitary Inspector, visited the houses on the opposite side of Sherborne Lane from the above Cottages, & found various defects in Sink Traps & Closets in 7 of these houses. Notices were served by the Inspector upon the several Owners, who very promptly remedied the defects; in one case a new closet was built

Similar repairs were carried out in houses in Silver St. & Horse St during the Summer. I have heard complaints of the defective condition of the outfall of the drains from houses at the Cobb into the Harbour, & I would suggest that on the completion of the Sherborn Lane Water scheme, the efforts of the Sanitary Authority ^{be} directed to the drains at the Cobb.

Water Supply. Two samples from the original supply to the Town, viz. the Spring at Colway, taken. 1 from the Spring, & the other from the Tank near Kent Cottage, have recently been sent for Analysis, & it is most gratifying to find that both were reported to be of excellent quality, & as the report of the new supply viz. from Nelly Brown's Spring was equally good, I think we may safely conclude that our Town is supplied with water of very excellent quality - The Springs being situated so far from human habitation or Encampment, the risk of Contamination with deleterious matter is reduced to a minimum.

Over-crowding. Two cases of over-crowding have been remedied & there are more which require to be done, but at the present time there appears to be a scarcity of Cottages in the Town with 2 or more bedrooms. One family of Husband, Wife, & 5 Children, are now living in a house with only One sitting, & One bedroom, & they assured me they cannot procure a larger Cottage.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,
James Spurr

Lyme Regis
Feb. 19th 1898.

